THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
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Fantastic Four™
GIANT GUEST STAR BONANZA!
MARVEL™ COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
73 APR
MCG

IN WHICH THE FABULOUS F.F. MAKE THEIR DEADLIEST MISTAKE

"THE FLAMES OF BATTLE.."

PAY ATTENTION, PILGRIM--THIS IS IMPORTANT--!
IN DAREDEVIL #38 (NOW ON SALE), WE SAW DD FREE HIMSELF FROM THE PHYSICAL FORM OF DR. DOOM! GOT IT? OKAY!
BUT NOW, THE DEMONIAC DOC HAS TRICKED THE FF INTO BELIEVING THAT DOOM IS ABOUT TO ATTACK THEM--STILL IN THE FORM OF DAREDEVIL!
I HOPE I CAN GIT MY PAWS ON 'IM BEFORE YA BELT 'IM WITH THAT SOUPED-UP POP-GUN!
TAKE YOUR POST, TORCH!
SOUND THE ALARM AS SOON AS YOU SIGHT HIM!

LET MARVELDOM CHEER! LET HUMANITY SHOUT!

STAN (THE MAN) LEE and JACK (KING) KIRBY

HAVE BESTOWED ANOTHER MASTERPIECE UPON MANKIND!

EXOTICALLY EMBELLISHED BY: **JOE SINNOTT**

LACONICALLY LETTERED BY: **ARTIE SIMEK**

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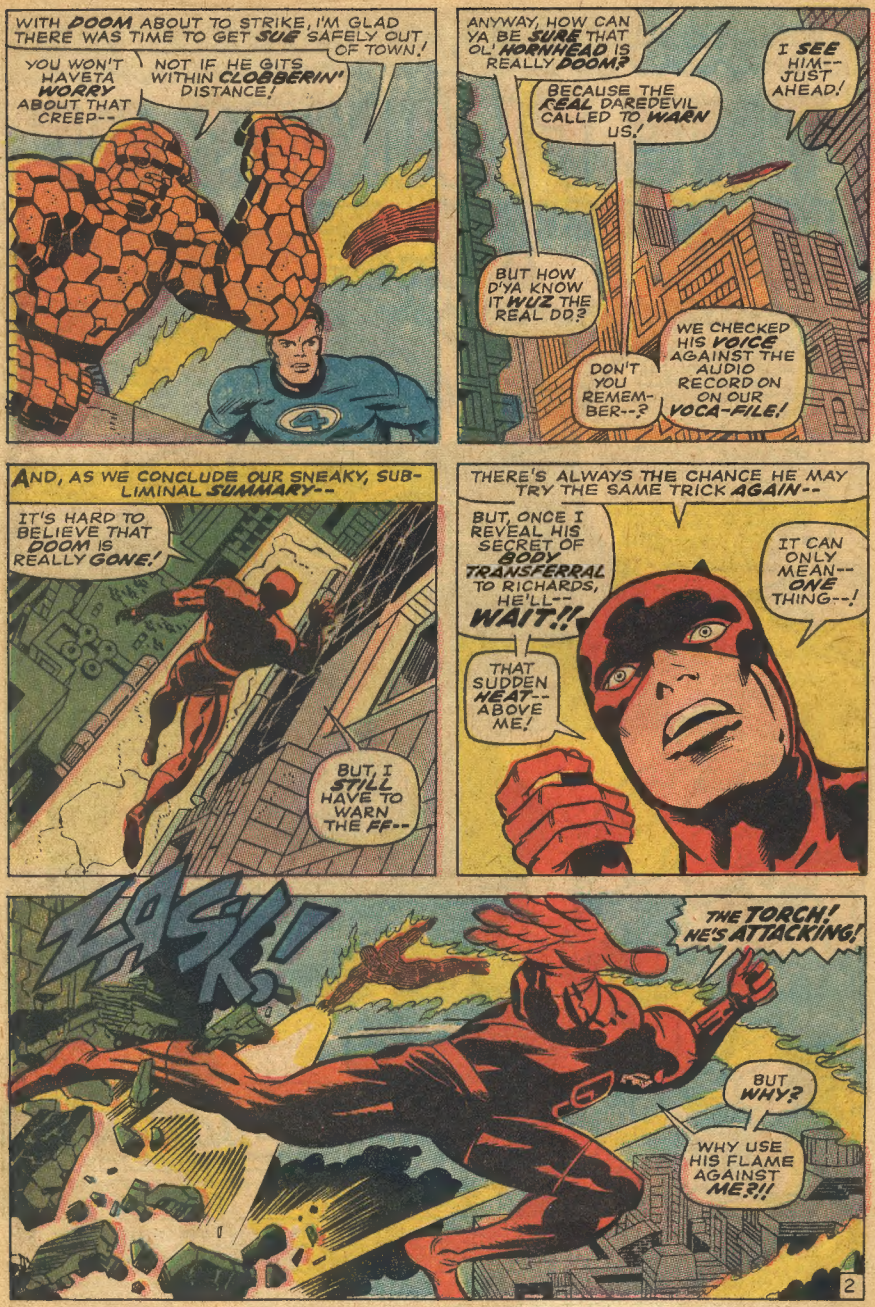
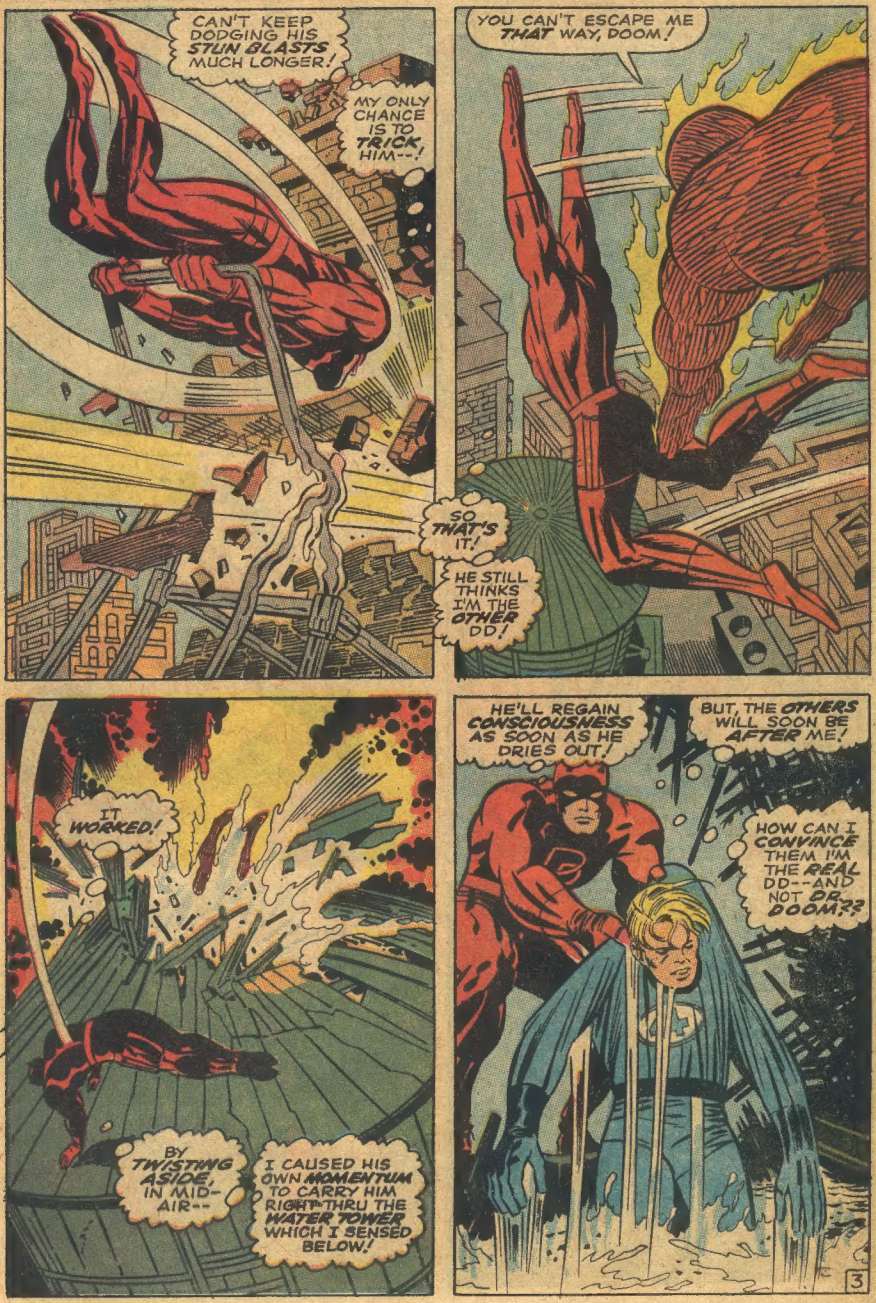

WITH DOOM ABOUT TO STRIKE, I'M GLAD THERE WAS TIME TO GET SUE SAFELY OUT OF TOWN!
YOU WON'T HAVETA WORRY ABOUT THAT CREEP--
NOT IF HE GITS WITHIN CLOBBERIN' DISTANCE!
ANYWAY, HOW CAN YA BE SURE THAT OL' HORNHEAD IS REALLY DOOM?
I SEE HIM-- JUST AHEAD!
BECAUSE THE REAL DAREDEVIL CALLED TO WARN US!
BUT HOW D'YA KNOW IT WUZ THE REAL DD?
DON'T YOU REMEMBER--?
WE CHECKED HIS VOICE AGAINST THE AUDIO RECORD ON OUR VOCA-FILE!
AND, AS WE CONCLUDE OUR SNEAKY, SUBLIMINAL SUMMARY--
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT DOOM IS REALLY GONE!
BUT, I STILL HAVE TO WARN THE FF--
THERE'S ALWAYS THE CHANCE HE MAY TRY THE SAME TRICK AGAIN--
BUT, ONCE I REVEAL HIS SECRET OF BODY TRANSFERRAL TO RICHARDS, HE'LL-- WAIT!!
IT CAN ONLY MEAN-- ONE THING--!
THAT SUDDEN HEAT-- ABOVE ME!
ZAGK!
THE TORCH! HE'S ATTACKING!
BUT WHY?
WHY USE HIS FLAME AGAINST ME?!!
2


CAN'T KEEP DODGING HIS STUN BLASTS MUCH LONGER!
MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO TRICK HIM--!
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME THAT WAY, DOOM!
SO THAT'S IT!
HE STILL THINKS I'M THE OTHER DD!
IT WORKED!
BY TWISTING ASIDE, IN MID-AIR--
I CAUSED HIS OWN MOMENTUM TO CARRY HIM RIGHT THRU THE WATER TOWER WHICH I SENSED BELOW!
HE'LL REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS AS SOON AS HE DRIES OUT!
BUT, THE OTHERS WILL SOON BE AFTER ME!
HOW CAN I CONVINCE THEM I'M THE REAL DD--AND NOT DR. DOOM??
3

IF I HAD THE SENSE OF A GOPHER, I'D TAKE OFF!
BUT, I MUST EXPLAIN--THEY HAVE TO BE WARNED--SOMEHOW!
SOMEONE JUST SWUNG ONTO THE ROOF! IF IT'S--NO!
AM I TOO LATE FOR THE PARTY?
WHAT GIVES, HORN-HEAD?
I'M NO MATCH FOR THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER-TEAM!
IT'S SPIDER-MAN!
IT'S NO PARTY, MISTER!
THE FF THINK I'M DR. DOOM--AND THEY'RE AFTER ME--WITH THE GLOVES OFF!
YOU'RE PUTTING ME ON!
THEY THINK YOU'RE DOOM?
IF YOU THINK IT'S A GAG--
THEN CUT OUT! WHO NEEDS YOU?
YOU REALLY MEAN IT, EH? YOU ARE IN A JAM!
OKAY THEN--YOU CAN COUNT ON YOUR FRIENDLY, NEIGHBOR-HOOD SPIDER-MAN!
THWIP!
BUT, IF WE HAVE TO STAND UP TO THE FF--WE'LL NEED HELP!
HOLD IT! I DIDN'T ASK--!
REEE-LAX, SON!
WHILE I WAS CAVORTING AROUND TOWN, I NOTICED JUST THE JOKER WE NEED!
IF HE'S STILL THERE--WE'LL BE IN BUSINESS!
HE'S JUST GETTING UP!
THE BIG FELLA LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN THRU A WAR!*
WELL, NOTHING LIKE A GOOD FIGHT TO SHAKE HIM OUT OF IT!
*-HIS BATTLE WITH THE WRECKER, IN THOR #150, TO BE EXACT! --STATISTICAL STAN.
4

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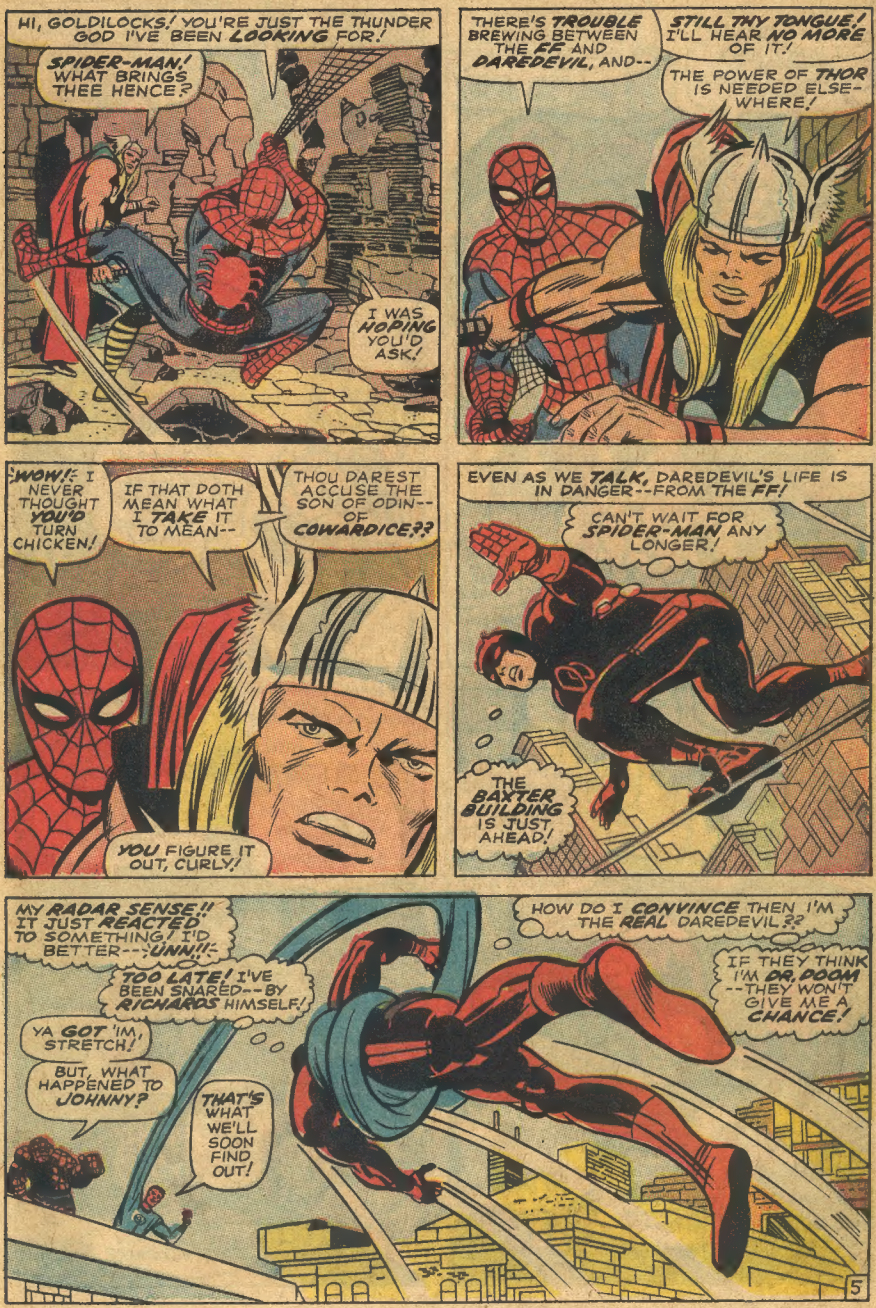
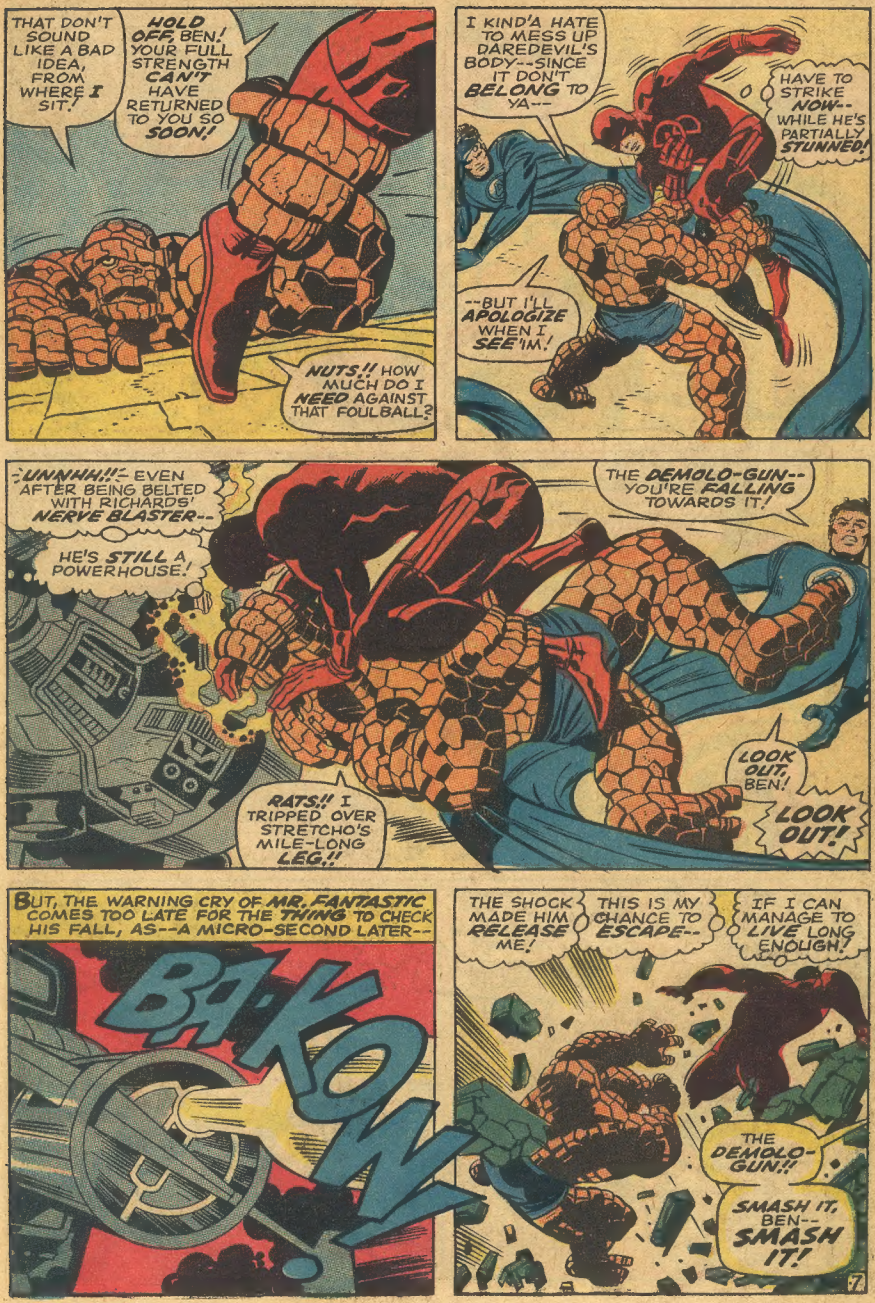

HI, GOLDILOCKS! YOU'RE JUST THE THUNDER GOD I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!
SPIDER-MAN! WHAT BRINGS THEE HENCE?
I WAS HOPING YOU'D ASK!
THERE'S TROUBLE BREWING BETWEEN THE FF AND DAREDEVIL, AND--
STILL THY TONGUE! I'LL HEAR NO MORE OF IT!
THE POWER OF THOR IS NEEDED ELSE-WHERE!
WOW!-- I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D TURN CHICKEN!
IF THAT DOTH MEAN WHAT I TAKE IT TO MEAN--
THOU DAREST ACCUSE THE SON OF ODIN--OF COWARDICE?!?
YOU FIGURE IT OUT, CURLY!
EVEN AS WE TALK, DAREDEVIL'S LIFE IS IN DANGER--FROM THE FF!
CAN'T WAIT FOR SPIDER-MAN ANY LONGER!
THE BAXTER BUILDING IS JUST AHEAD!
MY RADAR SENSE!! IT JUST REACTED TO SOMETHING! I'D BETTER--;UHN!!-
TOO LATE! I'VE BEEN SNARED--BY RICHARDS HIMSELF!
YA GOT 'IM, STRETCH!
BUT, WHAT HAPPENED TO JOHNNY?
THAT'S WHAT WE'LL SOON FIND OUT!
HOW DO I CONVINCE THEM I'M THE REAL DAREDEVIL?!
IF THEY THINK I'M DR. DOOM --THEY WON'T GIVE ME A CHANCE!
5

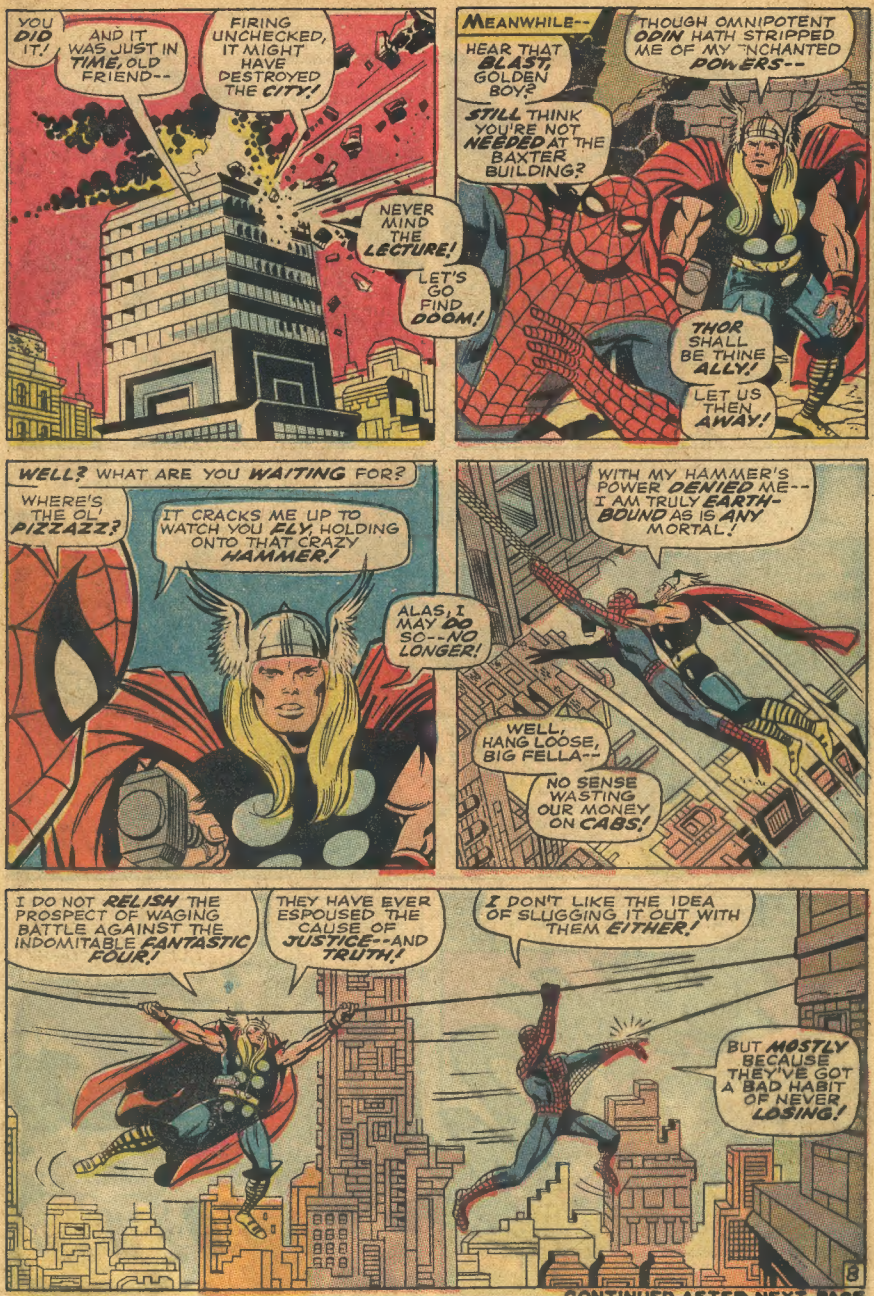
LEGGO OF HIM, MISTER!
IT DON'T TAKE BRAINS TO HANDLE A CRUMB THAT!
NO, BEN! WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT HE DID TO THE TORCH FIRST!
BEN--STOP!! HOLD IT!
DON'T BE A FOOL, THING!
I'M NOT DR. DOOM!

OH NO?? THEN WHY--UNNNH!
YER NERVE BLAST RAY,!! YA USED IT--AGAINST--ME?!!
I WARNED YOU, BEN!
I HAD A FEELING IT WASN'T MY RICK THAT STOPPED HIM!

LOOK, RICHARDS--USE YOUR HEAD!
OF COURSE YOU WOULD--
IF I WERE DOOM--WOULD I COME HERE?
IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW THE REAL DAREDEVIL HAD ALREADY WARNED US!
BUT--GIVE ME A CHANCE--I'LL PROVE WHO I AM!
HOW?
HE'S RIGHT!! --HOW??
WE BOTH KNOW DOOM HAD A BODY TRANSFERRAL RAY--
SO, HOW DO I PROVE HE HASN'T USED IT ON ME?

LET'S SIT DOWN AND TALK ABOUT IT--LIKE CIVILIZED MEN!
FORGET IT, MASKED MAN!
BETWEEN THE TWO OF US WE CAN FIGURE SOMETHING OUT!
IF YOU ARE DR. DOOM--I WOULDN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN FOR A SECOND!
THEN--WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO--
--MURDER ME--JUST ON SUSPICION??


THAT DON'T SOUND LIKE A BAD IDEA FROM WHERE I SIT!
HOLD OFF, BEN! YOUR FULL STRENGTH CAN'T HAVE RETURNED TO YOU SO SOON!
NUTS!! HOW MUCH DO I NEED AGAINST THAT FOULBALL?
I KIND'A HATE TO MESS UP DAREDEVIL'S BODY--SINCE IT DON'T BELONG TO YA--
--BUT I'LL APOLOGIZE WHEN I SEE 'IM!
HAVE TO STRIKE NOW-- WHILE HE'S PARTIALLY STUNNED!
UNNHH!!- EVEN AFTER BEING BELTED WITH RICHARDS' NERVE BLASTER--
HE'S STILL A POWERHOUSE!
RATS!! I TRIPPED OVER STRETCHO'S MILE-LONG LEG!!
THE DEMOLO-GUN-- YOU'RE FALLING TOWARDS IT!
LOOK OUT, BEN!
LOOK OUT!
BUT, THE WARNING CRY OF MR. FANTASTIC COMES TOO LATE FOR THE THING TO CHECK HIS FALL, AS--A MICRO-SECOND LATER--
BA-KOW!
THE SHOCK MADE HIM RELEASE ME!
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO ESCAPE--
IF I CAN MANAGE TO LIVE LONG ENOUGH!
THE DEMOLO-GUN!!
SMASH IT, BEN-- SMASH IT!
7


YOU DID IT!
AND IT WAS JUST IN TIME, OLD FRIEND--
FIRING UNCHECKED, IT MIGHT HAVE DESTROYED THE CITY!
NEVER MIND THE LECTURE!
LET'S GO FIND DOOM!
MEANWHILE--
HEAR THAT BLAST, GOLDEN BOY?
STILL THINK YOU'RE NOT NEEDED AT THE BAXTER BUILDING?
THOUGH OMNIPOTENT ODIN HATH STRIPPED ME OF MY ENCHANTED POWERS--
THOR SHALL BE THINE ALLY!
LET US THEN AWAY!
WELL? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
WHERE'S THE OL' PIZZAZZ?
IT CRACKS ME UP TO WATCH YOU FLY, HOLDING ONTO THAT CRAZY HAMMER!
ALAS, I MAY DO SO--NO LONGER!
WITH MY HAMMER'S POWER DENIED ME--I AM TRULY EARTH-BOUND AS IS ANY MORTAL!
WELL, HANG LOOSE, BIG FELLA--
NO SENSE WASTING OUR MONEY ON CABS!
I DO NOT RELISH THE PROSPECT OF WAGING BATTLE AGAINST THE INDOMITABLE FANTASTIC FOUR!
THEY HAVE EVER ESPOUSED THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE--AND TRUTH!
I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF SLUGGING IT OUT WITH THEM EITHER!
BUT MOSTLY BECAUSE THEY'VE GOT A BAD HABIT OF NEVER LOSING!
8

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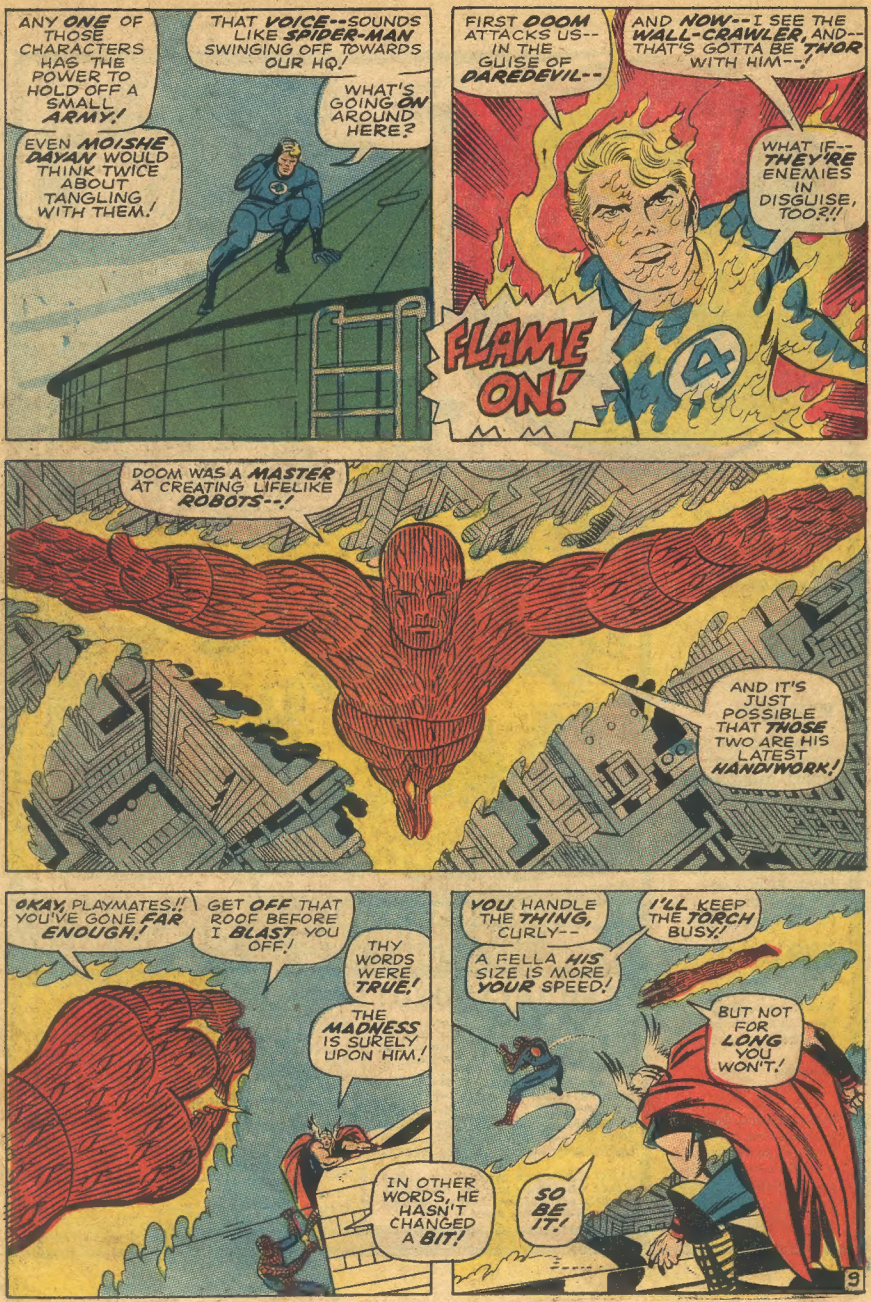
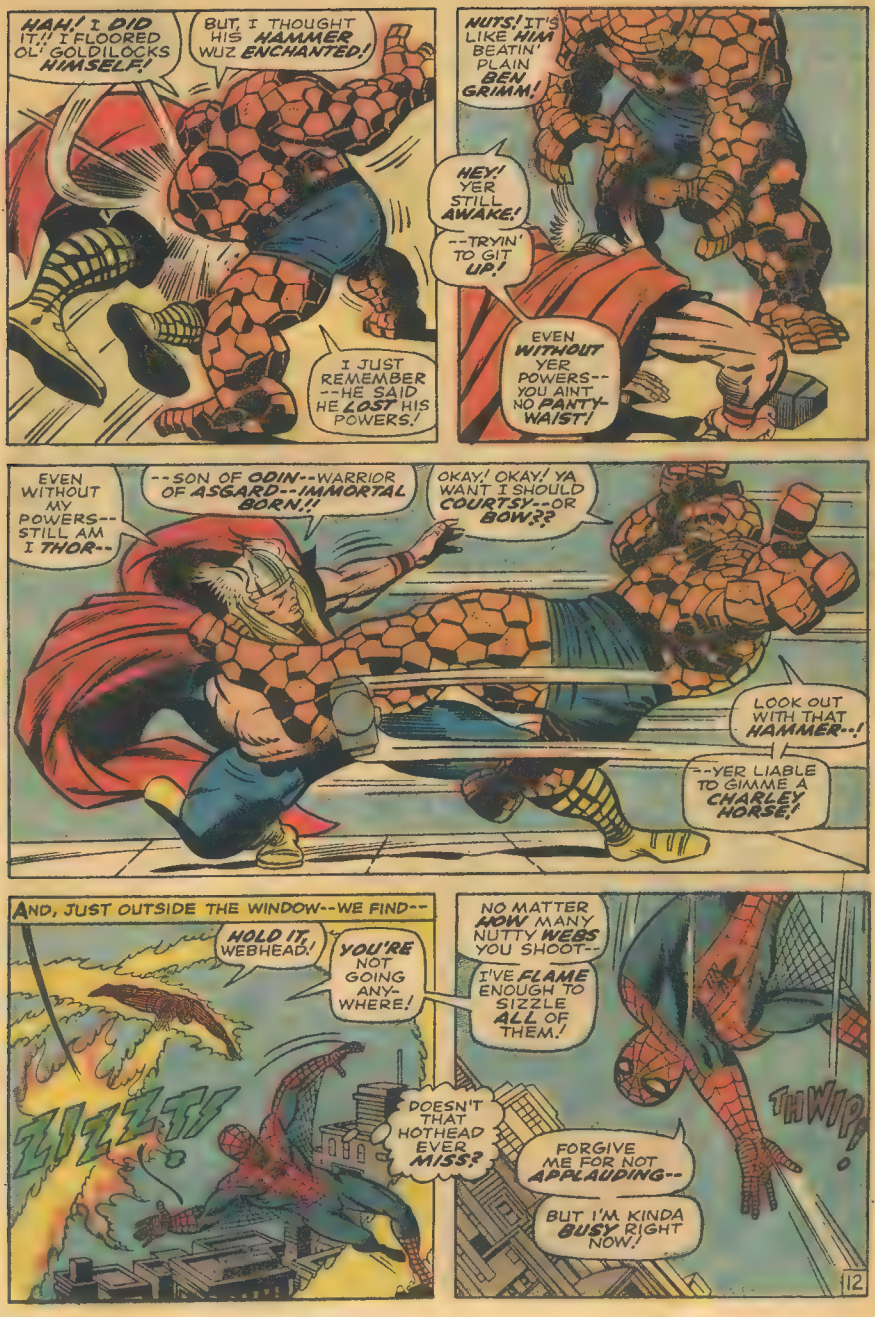

ANY ONE OF THOSE CHARACTERS HAS THE POWER TO HOLD OFF A SMALL ARMY!
EVEN MOISHE DAYAN WOULD THINK TWICE ABOUT TANGLING WITH THEM!
THAT VOICE--SOUNDS LIKE SPIDER-MAN SWINGING OFF TOWARDS OUR HQ!
WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?
FIRST DOOM ATTACKS US--IN THE GUISE OF DAREDEVIL--
AND NOW--I SEE THE WALL-CRAWLER, AND--THAT'S GOTTA BE THOR WITH HIM--!
WHAT IF--THEY'RE ENEMIES IN DISGUISE, TOO?!!
FLAME ON!
DOOM WAS A MASTER AT CREATING LIFELIKE ROBOTS--!
AND IT'S JUST POSSIBLE THAT THOSE TWO ARE HIS LATEST HANDIWORK!
OKAY, PLAYMATES!! YOU'VE GONE FAR ENOUGH!
GET OFF THAT ROOF BEFORE I BLAST YOU OFF!
THY WORDS WERE TRUE!
THE MADNESS IS SURELY UPON HIM!
IN OTHER WORDS, HE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT!
YOU HANDLE THE THING, CURLY--
A FELLA HIS SIZE IS MORE YOUR SPEED!
I'LL KEEP THE TORCH BUSY!
BUT NOT FOR LONG YOU WON'T!
SO BE IT!
9

STAY THY HANDS!
'TIS THE GOD OF THUNDER WHO DOTH COMMAND THEE!
IT COULD BE ANOTHER OF DOOM'S TRAPS, BEN!
HOLD HIM OFF WHILE I SETTLE WITH THE BOGUS DAREDEVIL!
AT LAST--SOMEONE BIG ENUFF FER ME TO CLOBBER!
AND YET--WHAT IF HE REALLY IS DAREDEVIL?
HOW CAN I EVER KNOW?
THOR--SPIDER-MAN--HERE TO HELP ME!
BUT--AGAINST THE FANTASTIC FOUR--WILL THE TWO OF THEM BE ENOUGH??
I GOTTA HAND IT TO YER BOSS--DOC DOOM!
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SWEAR YA REALLY ARE OL' GOLDILOCKS!
WHAT?!! THOU DOST TAKE ME FOR A BASE IMPOSTOR?!!
TRULY, THERE BE MADNESS UNBRIDLED AMONGST YE MORTALS!
WATCH YER LANGWICH, CORNBALL!!
THERE MAY BE SOME CHICKS AROUND!
HUH? HOW'DJA DODGE THAT HAY-MAKER?
THINK YOU THE THUNDER GOD BE NOT SWIFT OF EYE AND FLEET OF LIMB?
10

FOR ASGARD-- AND HONOR IMPERIAL!!
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME-- RIGHT BACK ATCHA!


HAH! I DID IT!! I FLOORED OL' GOLDILOCKS HIMSELF!
BUT, I THOUGHT HIS HAMMER WUZ ENCHANTED!
I JUST REMEMBER --HE SAID HE LOST HIS POWERS.
NUTS! IT'S LIKE HIM BEATIN' PLAIN BEN GRIMM!
HEY! YER STILL AWAKE!
--TRYIN' TO GIT UP!
EVEN WITHOUT YER POWERS-- YOU AINT NO PANTY-WAIST!
EVEN WITHOUT MY POWERS-- STILL AM I THOR--
--SON OF ODIN--WARRIOR OF ASGARD--IMMORTAL BORN!!
OKAY! OKAY! YA WANT I SHOULD COURTSY--OR BOW??
LOOK OUT WITH THAT HAMMER--!
--YER LIABLE TO GIMME A CHARLEY HORSE!
AND, JUST OUTSIDE THE WINDOW--WE FIND--
HOLD IT, WEBHEAD!
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANY-WHERE!
ZIZZT!
DOESN'T THAT HOTHEAD EVER MISS?
NO MATTER HOW MANY NUTTY WEBS YOU SHOOT--
I'VE FLAME ENOUGH TO SIZZLE ALL OF THEM!
THWIP!
FORGIVE ME FOR NOT APPLAUDING--
BUT I'M KINDA BUSY RIGHT NOW!
12

I FIGURED YOU'D TRY TO LOSE ME AROUND THAT CORNER!
YOU DISAPPOINT ME, WALL-CRAWLER--
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE PLAYING WITH AMATEURS?
ANSWER ME WHEN I TALK TO YOU!!
--OR CAN YOU ONLY TALK WHEN DOOM PULLS THE STRINGS?
HE LANDED ON THE ROOF OF A CHEMICAL PLANT!
GOTTA REACH HIM, BEFORE HE CAN--UH OH!!
I CAN'T STOP IN TIME--!
THOSE FUMES-- FROM THE CHIMNEY--
WHEN MY FLAME HITS THEM, THEY'LL--
UNNHH!!
13

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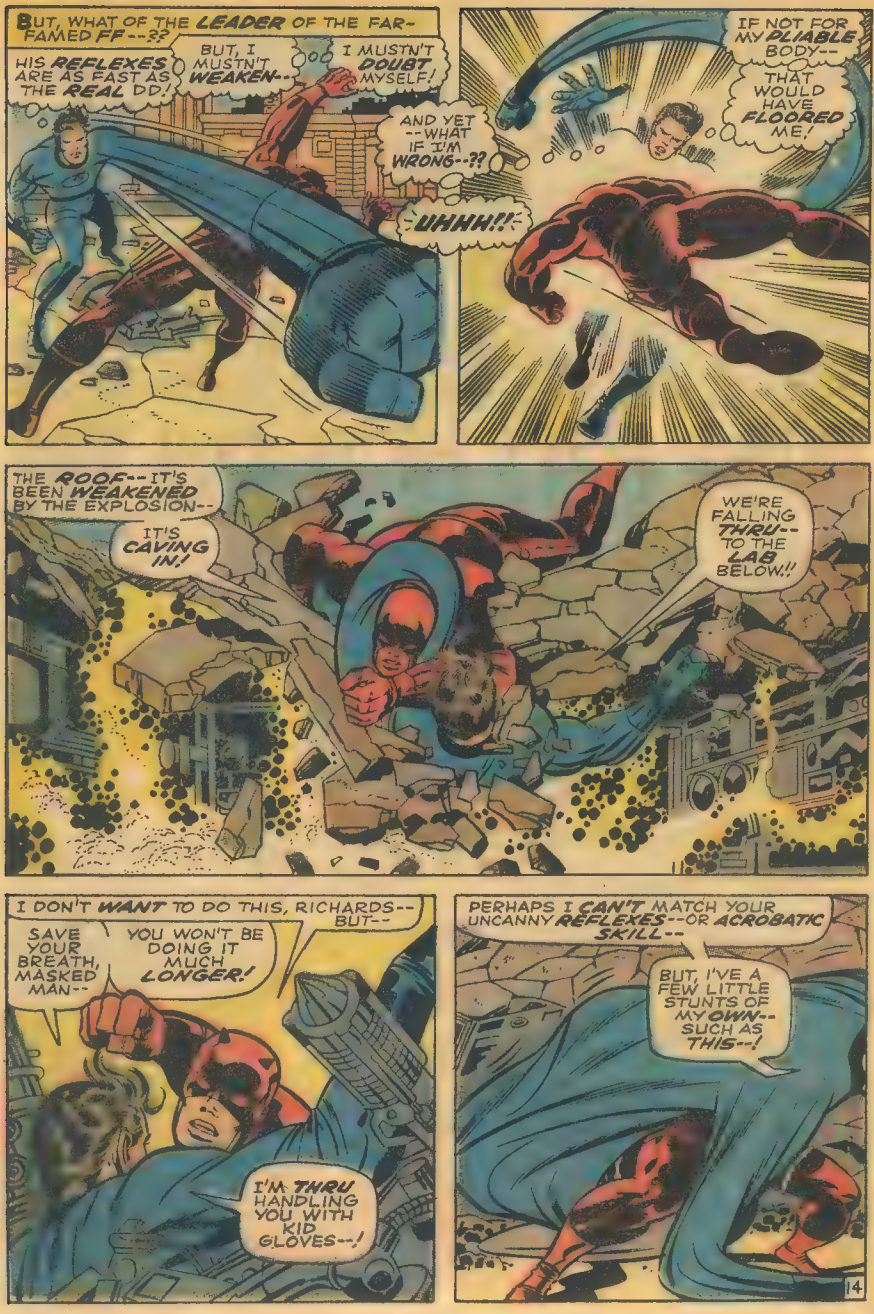
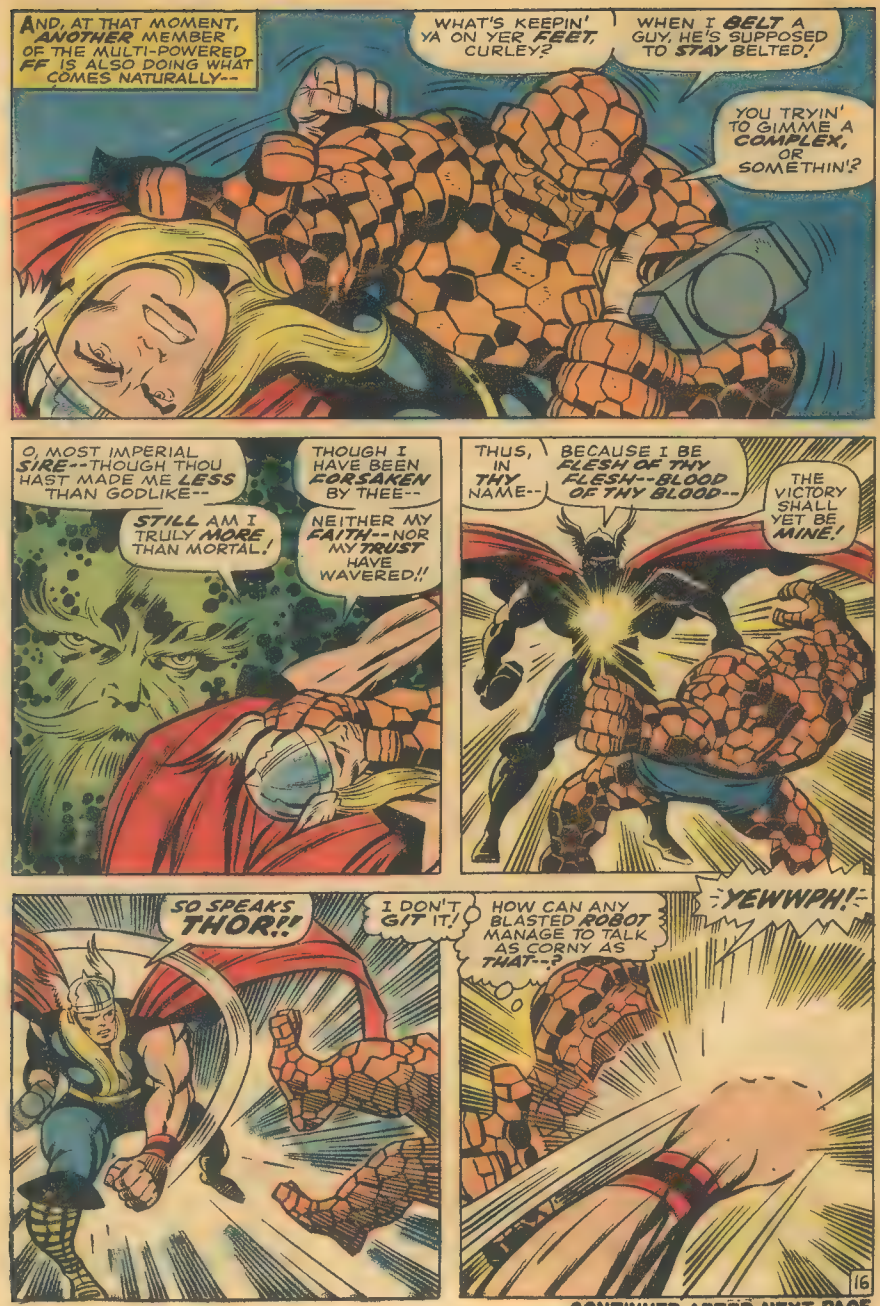

BUT, WHAT OF THE LEADER OF THE FAR-FAMED FF --??
HIS REFLEXES ARE AS FAST AS THE REAL DD!
BUT, I MUSTN'T WEAKEN--
I MUSTN'T DOUBT MYSELF!
AND YET --WHAT IF I'M WRONG--??
-UHHH!!-
IF NOT FOR MY PLIABLE BODY--
THAT WOULD HAVE FLOORED ME!
THE ROOF--IT'S BEEN WEAKENED BY THE EXPLOSION--
IT'S CAVING IN!
WE'RE FALLING THRU-- TO THE LAB BELOW!!
I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS, RICHARDS-- BUT--
SAVE YOUR BREATH, MASKED MAN--
YOU WON'T BE DOING IT MUCH LONGER!
I'M THRU HANDLING YOU WITH KID GLOVES--!
PERHAPS I CAN'T MATCH YOUR UNCANNY REFLEXES--OR ACROBATIC SKILL--
BUT, I'VE A FEW LITTLE STUNTS OF MY OWN-- SUCH AS THIS--!

BUT, REACHING OUT FROM UNDER THE ENVELOPING BODY OF REED RICHARDS, DAREDEVIL'S UNCANNY SENSES DIRECT HIS HAND TO--
SOME SORT OF ELECTRIC POWER ROD!
I'VE GOT TO SHOCK HIM WITH IT--LONG ENOUGH TO BREAK FREE!
UNHH!
HOW--COULD YOU SPOT THAT ROD--WHEN I HAD YOU--TOTALLY BLINDFOLDED??
THAT'S MY SECRET!
NOBODY CAN OPERATE SO WELL WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO SEE--
--UNLESS HE HAPPENS TO BE--AN ELECTRONIC ROBOT!
--SUCH AS THE TYPE DR. DOOM EXCELS IN CREATING!
HE DOESN'T REALIZE MY OTHER SENSES MAKE UP FOR MY LIFELONG BLINDNESS!
HE'S MAKING A LASSO--OF HIS ARM!
NOW, DUE TO MY OWN POWER, HE'S SURE TO BELIEVE I'M ONE OF DOOM'S ROBOTS!
THANKS! JUST WHAT I WANTED!
ALL RIGHT, MASKED MAN--JUMP!
15


AND, AT THAT MOMENT, ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE MULTI-POWERED FF IS ALSO DOING WHAT COMES NATURALLY--
WHAT'S KEEPIN' YA ON YER FEET, CURLEY?
WHEN I BELT A GUY, HE'S SUPPOSED TO STAY BELTED!
YOU TRYIN' TO GIMME A COMPLEX, OR SOMETHIN'?
O, MOST IMPERIAL SIRE--THOUGH THOU HAST MADE ME LESS THAN GODLIKE--
STILL AM I TRULY MORE THAN MORTAL!
THOUGH I HAVE BEEN FORSAKEN BY THEE--
NEITHER MY FAITH--NOR MY TRUST HAVE WAVERED!!
THUS, IN THY NAME--
BECAUSE I BE FLESH OF THY FLESH--BLOOD OF THY BLOOD--
THE VICTORY SHALL YET BE MINE!
SO SPEAKS THOR!!
I DON'T GIT IT!
HOW CAN ANY BLASTED ROBOT MANAGE TO TALK AS CORNY AS THAT--?
-YEWWPH!-
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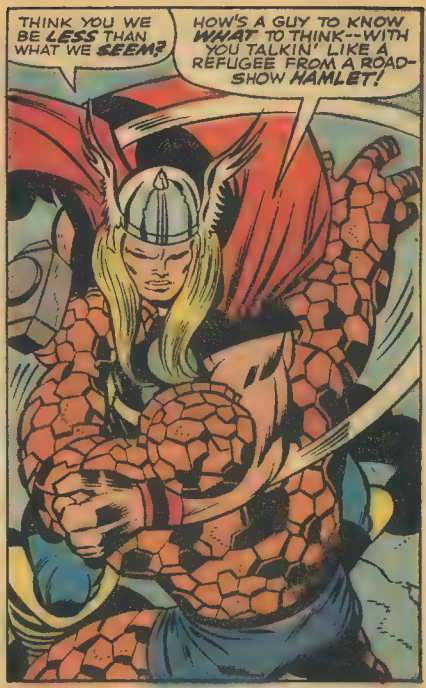
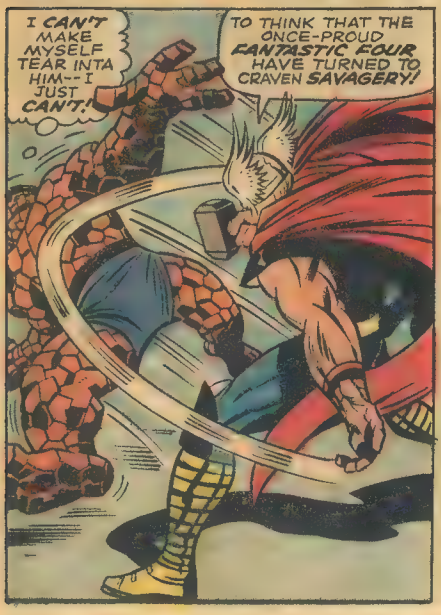
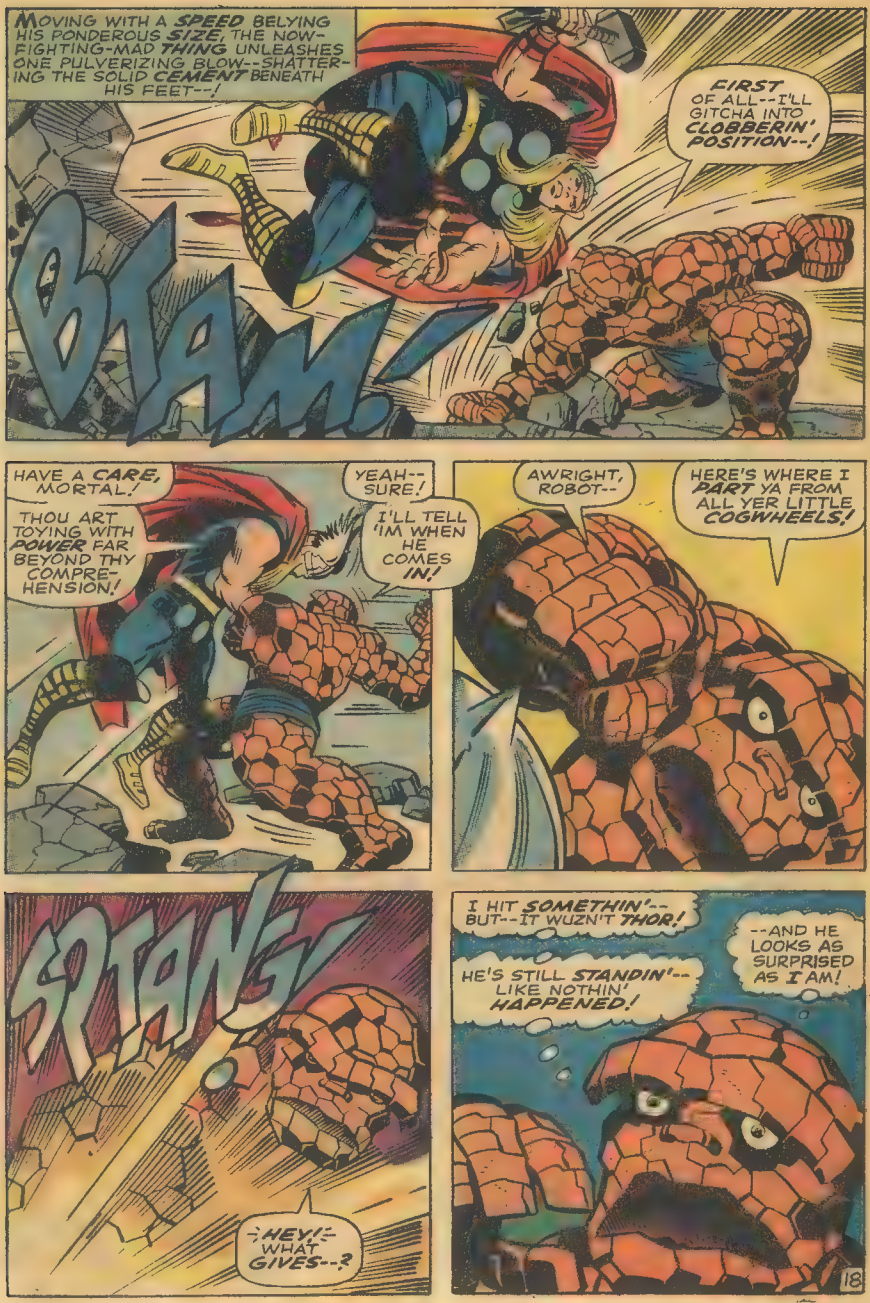
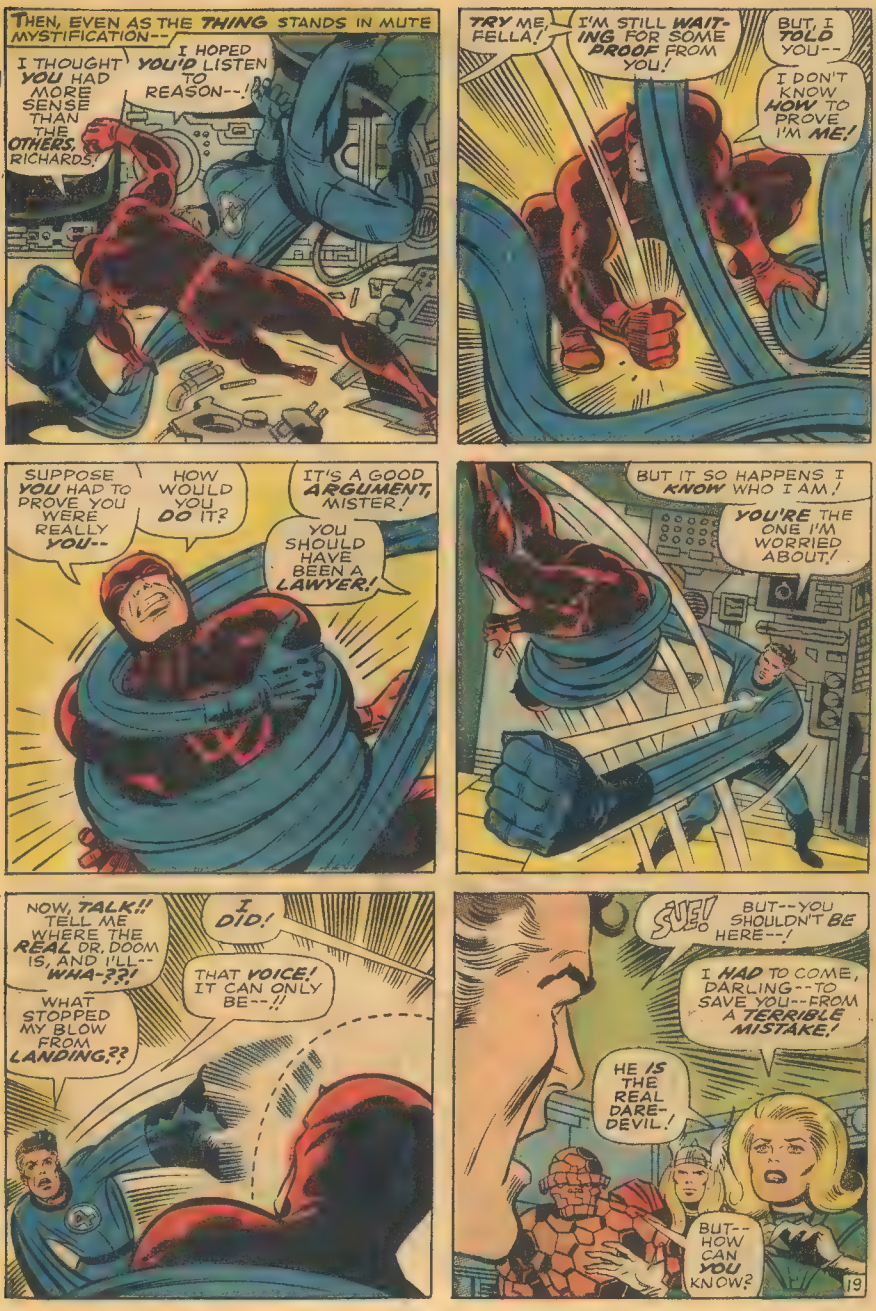
THIS IS BATTY,!!
EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TA FLATTEN THE WHOLE BUNCH'A YA--
WE KEEP PULLIN' OUR PUNCHES--ON ACCOUNT'A YA LOOK LIKE THE GOOD GUYS,!
WITLESS CHURL! DOST THOU TAKE US FOR KNAVES?


THINK YOU WE BE LESS THAN WHAT WE SEEM?
HOW'S A GUY TO KNOW WHAT TO THINK--WITH YOU TALKIN' LIKE A REFUGEE FROM A ROAD-SHOW HAMLET!


I CAN'T MAKE MYSELF TEAR INTA HIM--I JUST CAN'T!
TO THINK THAT THE ONCE-PROUD FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE TURNED TO CRAVEN SAVAGERY!

NOW YA DID IT,!
I AINT SURE I KNOW WHAT YA SAID--
--BUT IT SOUNDED TO ME LIKE YER PUTTIN' DOWN THE FF--
AND NOBODY DOES THAT WHILE BASHFUL BENJAMIN'S AROUND!!


MOVING WITH A SPEED BELYING HIS PONDEROUS SIZE, THE NOW-FIGHTING-MAD THING UNLEASHES ONE PULVERIZING BLOW--SHATTERING THE SOLID CEMENT BENEATH HIS FEET--!
FIRST OF ALL--I'LL GITCHA INTO CLOBBERIN' POSITION--!
BTAM!
HAVE A CARE, MORTAL!
THOU ART TOYING WITH POWER FAR BEYOND THY COMPREHENSION!
YEAH--SURE!
I'LL TELL 'IM WHEN HE COMES IN!
AWRIGHT, ROBOT--
HERE'S WHERE I PART YA FROM ALL YER LITTLE COGWHEELS!
SPTANG!
-HEY!- WHAT GIVES--?
I HIT SOMETHIN'--BUT--IT WUZN'T THOR!
HE'S STILL STANDIN'--LIKE NOTHIN' HAPPENED!
--AND HE LOOKS AS SURPRISED AS I AM!


THEN, EVEN AS THE THING STANDS IN MUTE MYSTIFICATION--
I THOUGHT YOU HAD MORE SENSE THAN THE OTHERS, RICHARDS!
I HOPED YOU'D LISTEN TO REASON--!
TRY ME, FELLA!
I'M STILL WAITING FOR SOME PROOF FROM YOU!
BUT, I TOLD YOU--
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PROVE I'M ME!
SUPPOSE YOU HAD TO PROVE YOU WERE REALLY YOU--
HOW WOULD YOU DO IT?
IT'S A GOOD ARGUMENT, MISTER!
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN A LAWYER!
BUT IT SO HAPPENS I KNOW WHO I AM!
YOU'RE THE ONE I'M WORRIED ABOUT!
NOW, TALK!! TELL ME WHERE THE REAL DR. DOOM IS, AND I'LL-- WHA-??!
WHAT STOPPED MY BLOW FROM LANDING??
I DID!
THAT VOICE! IT CAN ONLY BE--!!
SUE! BUT--YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE--!
I HAD TO COME, DARLING--TO SAVE YOU--FROM A TERRIBLE MISTAKE!
HE IS THE REAL DARE-DEVIL!
BUT--HOW CAN YOU KNOW?
19

IT WAS ON THE SIX P.M. TV NEWS! DOOM'S IN LATVERIA--HE WAS ADDRESSING A CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS! THEN, WHEN I LEARNED SPIDER-MAN, THOR, AND DAREDEVIL WERE SEEN AT THE BAXTER BUILDING--AND AN EXPLOSION WAS REPORTED--I COULDN'T STAY AWAY!
I'M SURE GLAD YOU'RE A TV FAN, MRS. RICHARDS!
I GUESS THAT CLEARS THINGS UP, DD!
AND THIS TIME HE MEANS DAREDEVIL--
NOT DOC DOOM!
I FIGGERED IT WUZ YOU GUYS ALLA TIME!
NO BLAMED ROBOTS COULD FIGHT LIKE THAT!
WELL, AS MAYOR LAGUARDIA USED TO SAY--WHEN I MAKE A MISTAKE, IT'S A WHOPPER!
FORGET IT, FRIEND! WHERE ELSE COULD I GET A WORKOUT LIKE THAT!
WORKOUT? WE ALL NEEDED THIS WORKOUT LIKE THOR NEEDS A WIG!
AND, SPEAKING OF THAT ASGARDIAN HIPPIE--
WHERE IS HE?
HE'S HALFWAY ACROSS TOWN BY NOW!
HE SAID SOMETHIN' ABOUT HAVIN' TO FIGHT SOME CREEP CALLED THE WRECKER!*
-SHEESH!- IT MUST TAKE A LOTTA GUTS TO WALK AROUND TOWN IN A GET-UP LIKE THAT!
*AND FIGHT HIM HE DOES, IN THOR #150!--SNEAK-A-PLUG STAN.
BUT WHAT ABOUT DOOM?
NOW THAT WE KNOW HE'S STILL ALIVE, WHY DON'T WE HIGHTAIL IT AFTER 'IM?
WE CAN'T INVADE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF HIS OWN NATION, BEN!
-HUNH!- LOOKS TO ME LIKE YA WOULDN'T IF YA COULD--LEASTWAYS NOT NOW!
AS LONG AS DOOM REMAINS IN LATVERIA, WE CAN'T TOUCH HIM!
MMMM... I HOPE HE STAYS THERE FOREVER!
AND, IF YOU FIND THIS ENDING TOO MUSHY, BELIEVER--REMEMBER, OUR COSTUMED CAVORTERS ARE MEN FIRST, AND SUPERHEROES SECOND!--IN FACT... AREN'T WE ALL?
NEXT! THE SILVER SURFER and GALACTUS!
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Fantastic Four 4 Fan Page

Send letters to: LEE and KIRBY
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV.
NEW YORK 10022 N. Y.

Dear Stan and Jack,

Recall that in F.F. #25 Reed whipped up a potion — a double-your-money-back guarantee to turn Thing back to Benjy. What happened? Thing refused to drink and clobbered the beaker of change-juice. His logic — Alicia loves him totally as he is with any change possibly altering her love which is a reasonably valid point. So now why all the weeping and wailing for a return to normalcy? He had his chance and blew it. Self pity is definitely not where it's at. Dry his eyes. They've been getting so wet, you can't tell they're blue.

SP4 Bruce Long, RA 19889745, 3d Admin Co.,
3d Inf. Div. (PM)
APO, New York, N. Y. 09036

Either that or he's sneaked out and been fitted with tinted *contact lenses!* Anyway, you have to admit the guy's got something to be hung up about! Who *wouldn't* feel sorry for himself if he looked like an overgrown, petrified orange? And, finally, if you still think his eyes need drying, why don't you tell him about it *in person* — unless maybe you also think he has a bad temper!

Dear Stan and Jack,

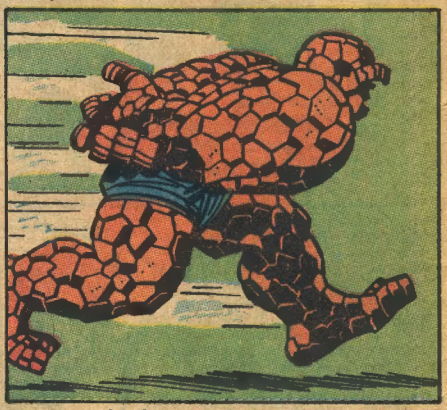
F.F. #69 was . . . uh . . . give me time . . . I'll think of a good enough word for it eventually! For starters, how come my favorite F.F. member, the Thing, didn't have blue eyes when you open the book and see him staring at you? Also, how come Johnny's clothes don't burn up when he flames on in his street clothes — are his clothes made of the same material that his F.F. uniform is? I wish Spidey and F.F. were on at a more reasonable time on WHAE-TV for us guys that go to school. They go on at 7:00 a.m. and I've got to catch my bus at 7:30, so I have to get up at 6:30 a.m. to be ready in time to watch them. As for the Spidey mag, I love Pete just the way he is. Those Marvelites that want him the old way ought to wake up — Pete's growing up, so of course he's going to change. I also like NOT BRAND ECHH and rate it tops with all your other mags. Until Honest Irv quits facing front, make mine Marvell Rick Workman, 267 Fernwood Rd.
Weirton, W. Va.

Only if you promise to keep getting up in time to watch our tintinnabulatin' TV triumphs, Rick-O! If you'll *do* that, then we'll admit that somebody goofed on the coloring of Ben's baby-blues — and we'll *also* tell you that Johnny had some street threads made out of the same material as his uniform! On the other hand, if you *don't* agree to keep rising with the roosters, we won't send you the nifty no-prize you've earned for spotting our bombastic boner! Fair 'nuff? Fair 'nuff!

Dear Stan and Jack,

You have two no-prize contests going. One is about Ben's skin; the other is Reed and Sue's unborn child. I have an answer for each problem! First, when the cosmic rays hit the FF, all the cells of their bodies were affected. In Sue, Reed, and Johnny — it affected all their cells in a similar manner. But in Ben, the change was more complex. All his muscle cells were enlarged and multiplied; but his skin cells, both layers, were hardened and joined and became rock-like. This makes both layers identical so that when one piece is knocked off it is indistinguishable. This helps solve another problem. In both Reed and Sue, the reproductive cells were altered. These conditions are what are necessary to create mutants. Get the hint? So, until someone says it isn't the Marvel Age of Comics, make mine Marvell 'Nuff said! Steve Wintrode,
Marcellus, Mich. 49067

Maybe even *more* than that, Steverino! Anyway, you've just won yourself a no-prize for your exemplary explanation of the way those rollickin' rays affected Bashful Benjy's skin! We'll have to hold off on the *second award*, though — until that fateful moment when the doctor walks into a hospital waiting room and says the words all Marveldom is so anxiously awaiting: "Mr. Richards, you're the proud father of a baby . . . !"



Dear Stan and Jack,

Whatever happened to wonderful Wyatt Wingfoot? We were becoming quite attached to him after watching him chase around with Johnny for all those issues. Then, suddenly, there was Crystal and that was the last we saw of Wyatt. Is Crys already forcing Johnny to give up all his old friends? Is she that kind of woman? Speaking of Johnny, that brings us to this next point. We seem to remember Johnny Storm as being enrolled in a certain university. For a while, all went well, but then his charming teammates spirited him away and he never returned. Now, we agree that a school will make certain allowances for the Human Torch, but eventually, its patience must come to an end. It would be a shame to see Johnny's academic career end because you seemed to have such nice subplots started. Please clarify this matter as it keeps us awake at night. It behooves us at this point to say that we still love you in spite of these nasty questions. Don't take them too much to heart.

Sandy Hallberg & Karen Izui
2554 Pensacola Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60618

But we do, gals — and we're not about to let a couple'a pussycats like you go unanswered for another second! First of all, it just could be that Johnny *cooled off* on Wyatt — after all, a groovy-looker like him might make for some stiff competition. But, we actually imagine that the Wondrous One returned to his studies and just hasn't had time to get together with his flamin' buddy lately! As for Torchy's academic career, let's just say he's been forced to drop out temporarily in order to handle more urgent matters! Don't be surprised if it takes *another* shot at the campus scene one of these days, though! After all, it just wouldn't be *in* to have an uneducated Human Torch buzzing around the big town!

Now hear this! Please keep all letters no longer than ONE PAGE! Have mercy, mellow ones!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Remember SPIDER-MAN #22 and #23 when one fan's letter was reprinted quite by error? Remember SPIDER-MAN #25 when your faithful, unwavering Flo Steinberg threw herself upon your mercy, and you admonished her with, "If it happens again, no more no-prizes for you!" I now cite the case of F.F. #69 and #70 where your loyal secretary did it again with the letter from Viet Nam. Although this is a grievous error, you must forgive the poor Miss Steinberg. You cannot toss to the wind all of those loyal years of service, sweating and panting to get all those cards and letters out for the measley few dollars she is paid. The defense rests.

Michael Burton, 1149 Greenwood St.
Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311

And we just wanna say that since Lee Bailey's busy with his T V show, Fab Flo couldn't have had a better mouthpiece going for her, Mike! Unfortunately, it was all for naught, though — since Flo was exonerated when Jumbo John Verpoorten returned from a vacation in California and admitted that *he* made the goof when he pasted the pages up! Don't worry about him getting the *axe*, though! Nobody in the Bullpen can climb high enough to hand him a *pink slip!*

Dear Stan and Jack,

If you wouldn't mind, I have a list of some villains and heroes that I'd like to see the Fantastic Four battle — the Enchantress, the Executioner, the Destroyer, and Ulik, all past foes of Thor. Your artwork, penciling, writing, inking, coloring, and stapling are just great. Your Bullpen Gang does so much work that some of them should take a vacation once in a while. I know you're trying to please us fans and I hope we're pleasing you by buying your marvelous mags. I would like you to know what this world's coming to. You read all about these killings, stealing, etc. When you kill someone you will either get the electric chair or life in prison. So crime doesn't pay. The smart-alecks or (sometimes) adults make fun of comics, and say they're not any good. There are books out for adults, and if kids want to read comics, let them. It's not hurting anybody. If people would leave other people alone this would be a better world to live in.

Mike Silvers, Box 61
Ottawa, Ohio 45875

You said it, Mike! We can't think of any way to tell it like it is any more profoundly than *you* have! As a matter of fact, we only wish that every person on this pulsatin' planet of ours would make "Mind thine own business!" their eleventh commandment! And we just wanna add that, coming from one of our younger readers like yourself (or from *any* reader for that matter!), that's just about the most refreshing philosophy we've been grabbed by in some time! 'Nuff said!

Dear Stan and Jack,

How many times do I hear someone call the whole Marvel shebang a mess? Quite often. But has it ever occurred to you that amidst the confusion in your mags uniformity and stability reign supreme? I'll explain by using the F.F. Every month I know just when to expect the magazine to go on sale and in advance I have saved accordingly. There are always twenty pages of story, always a bullpen section and always two letters pages, always in the same place. So what's confusing? Here's a description of Marvel in a nutshell — a consistent company constantly producing profound publications produced by a ready, stable staff, idiotically insisting on placing their products perfectly, yet frantically filling these productions with perplexing pronouncements that tend to confuse, confound and befuddle the fan. Would you believe a bombshell? In keeping with the seriousness I've established in this communication, I'd like to say that the most constant thing in the Marvel Group is story and art, which are always tops!

Paul Laginess, 86 Elm St.
River Rouge, Mich.

Glad you *feel* that way, Paul — about the story and art, that is! As for the rest of your liltin' letter, we'll comment on it as soon as some other mixed-up Marvelite can explain it to us!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Well, well, well, so Susie's going to have a baby. This is all well and good. However, seeing as how each issue occurs (in time placement) directly after the preceding issue, do you realize how long it will be before the little bundle of joy is born? Assuming that it will take nine months until the patter of little feet, and also assuming that each issue is one day in the life of the F.F. (on the average), and also assuming that each month has thirty days, Reed should be pacing the floor until approximately issue #340. This is 32 years and 6 months away!! I personally will be 38, not to mention Stan and Jack! Don't get me wrong — I'm glad there is a family in the offing for Stretcho and Sue, but good gravy! Well, even if you don't come up with the answer, at least I can tell my children when it all began.

Val Perkins, 3404 Hobbs Rd.
Nashville, Tenn. 37215

Alright, Val! We can't stand this battle between *real time* and *Marvel time* another second (real time, that is)! So we're gonna sock it to you straight! Although a complete story may take place within a day, that doesn't necessarily mean the next story takes place the very next day. The following yarn could begin the next week, the next month, or even the next year! Then, on the other hand, the next twenty issues might occur within a period of twenty days! Anyway, what we intend to do about Sue's baby is to have it come along at the exact moment when it'll surprise you and shake you up the most! We'll leave it to *you* to figure out just how the time element jells! Now, if you know what we just said, let us know — 'cause we're so confused we're not even certain when *quitting time* is! (And more mixed-up than that you just can't get!)

Fantastic Four

scanned by *Wizard*